

# ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

## Managing Resources, Preserving Nature

The Americas share an environment that is among the richest and most varied on Earth. Leaders at the Quebec City Summit acknowledged their shared responsibility for protecting this unique resource and called for measures to promote clean air and water, sustainable natural resource use, local environmental management, and conservation.

Leaders in Quebec City emphasized that environmental protection complements, rather than hinders, economic growth. Sustainable natural resource management, for example, strengthens our forestry and fishery industries; clean air and water promote workers' health. A key to promoting sustainable development is to implement sound, market-based regulations and to explore non-regulatory solutions that achieve positive change.



A tourist takes a canopy tour on Turtle Island in the Gulf of Nicoya on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, a world leader in protecting the environment while promoting eco-tourism. (Kent Gilbert, AP/WWP)

The United States actively supports innovative approaches to environmental protection. Through public-private partnerships and debt reduction programs, we leverage new resources with civil society and the private sector in support of sustainable development. We also encourage countries to implement policies that promote new and cleaner technologies. At the same time, the U.S. engages hemispheric partners on shared environmental concerns. The U.S. also collaborates with other countries to improve enforcement of national environmental laws. Through these actions, the U.S. is helping promote responsible environmental stewardship as both an obligation and opportunity for our hemisphere.

### U.S. ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE HEMISPHERE'S AGENDA

- The U.S. is a leader in **debt-for-nature swaps** under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act. Since the Quebec City Summit, we have reached agreements with five Latin American countries that provide \$62.4 million in debt relief and generate \$53.6 million for conservation activities over the life of the accords.
- Under the White Water to Blue Water Initiative (WW2BW) launched in 2002, the U.S. has provided funding for **integrated watershed and marine ecosystem management projects** for the Wider Caribbean region and helped launch public-private partnerships.
- The U.S. actively participates in meetings of the **Health and Environment Ministers** of the Americas to build linkages between these two vital issues.
- In 2003, the U.S. sponsored a Western Hemisphere Migratory Bird Conference where officials from over 25 countries developed regional priorities and a **hemispheric strategy for implementing conservation activities**.
- In 2002, the U.S. formulated a **Central American-U.S. Joint Declaration Action Plan (CONCAUSA)** that encourages **cooperation on shared environmental concerns**.